

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /065 W

-----221058Z 063710 /17

O R 200930Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6941

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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EMBASSY/AID MESSAGE

AF FOR AMBASSADOR BOLEN

AID/AFR FOR HAVEN NORTHD

GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR NORLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LT

SUBJECT: PRIORITY ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

REF: A. STATE 72935, B. MASERU 0393, C. STATE MEMCON DTD MARCH

9, 1977,

1. EMBASSY/AID HERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT EXISTING ORDER OF ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES OF GOL MAY HAVE BECOME CONFUSED IN DEPARTMENT/AID.W. INFORMATIBN CONVEYED IN MEMORANDUM CITED UNDER REF C, AS WELL AS UNOFFICIAL REPORTS REACHING US FROM WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT FOCUS OF PRESENT DELIBERATIONS ON FY 78 AID FINANCING OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LESOTHO MAY BE CONCENTRATED ON POSSIBLE U.S.

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PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED NEW LESOTHO AIRPORT.

2. REF B COMMENTED ON PRIORITY NOW BEING GIVEN BY GOL TO MOHALES HOEK-QUTHING-QACHA'S NEK ROAD AND DREW ATTENTION TO SUBMISSION OF LESOTHO ROADS APPRAISAL TO AID/W. DEPT/AID MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PROPOSAL ENJOYS HIGHEST RPT HIGHEST PRIORITY OF GOL INsofar AS REQUESTED U.S.; ASSISTANCE IS

CONCERNED. WHILE AIRPORT REMAINS HIGH PRIORITY AND THIS MESSAGE IS IN NO WAY AIMED AT DISCOUNTING ITS IMPORTANCE, MH-QUTHING-QN ROAD HAS SUPERSEDED AIRPORT AS FIRST RPT FIRST PRIORITY WHERE WE ARE CONCERNED. THIS IS BASED PRIMARILY ON EMERGENCY NEED TO ALLEVIATE ISOLATION OF QACHA'S NEK AREA AND REOPEN FREE AND UNHINDRED PASSAGE FROM CAPITAL AND LOWLAND AREA ON THE WEST THROUGH LESOTHO'S RUGGED MOUNTAIN TERRAIN TO NAR SOUTHEAST ADJACENT TO TRANSKEI. ROAD WOULD REINFORCE LESOTHO'S POLITICAL INTEGRITY, OPEN UP VAST MOUNTAIN RURAL AREA TO SOCIAL SERVICES, FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND PROVIDE EGRESS FOR WOOL AND MOHAUR PRODUCTION.

3. CONFUSION OVER CURRENT PRIORITIES MAY HAVE ARISEN OUT OF FACT THAT AIRPORT PROJECT IS OLDEST INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY OF GOL AND HAS BEEN CONSTANT OBJECT OF EMPHASIS FOR SEVERAL YEARS WHEREAS NEW AND TOP PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO MH-PUTHING-QN ROAD AROSE ONLY IN PAST FEWSMONTHS SINCE CRISIS OVER CREAION OF TRANSKEI, LESOTHO COMPLAINT AGAINST SA IN UNSC AND FARAH MISSION TO IDENTIFY EMERGENCY AND OTHER NEEDS OF LESOTHO. WHILE EMBASSY/AID MASERU HAVE NOT YET SEEN FAJAH REPORT, WE ARE INFORMED BY GGL THAT MH-QUTHING-QN ROAD IS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN REPORT.

4. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY HIGHEST LEVEL GOL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND PLANNING THAT MH-QUTHING-QN ROAD TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER AIRPORT WHERE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IS CONCERNED. WE HAVE EMPHASIZE

TO GOL THE NEED URGENTLY TO MAKE THIS CRYSTAL KLEAR THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IF WASHINGTON. IT IS TH VIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF EMBASSY/AID THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION INFORM OF FUNDING OF MH-QUTHING-QN ROAD PROJECT IN FISCAL YEAR 1978 IS THE MOST CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT INPUT U.S. CAN MAKE TO LESOTHO EMERGENCY PROGRAM. EMBASSY/AID URGE THAT EVERY EFKORT CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF FY 78 AID BE MADE TB ASSURE INCLUSION OF ROAD PROJECT FUNDING EEN AT COST OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AIRPORT PROJECT. THIS HAS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ENDORSEMENT HIGHEST LEVEL GOL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND PLANNING. STOKES

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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